

# Bat Mitzvah for Rachel Spitzer Will Be October 20 at Community Hall

A Bat Mitzvah celebration marking Rachel Spitzer's coming of age will be held October 20, at the Mackinac Island Community Hall. Miss Spitzer is a sixth grade student at Akiva Hebrew Day School in Southfield and is the daughter of Robert Spitzer and Ann Silverman, who have a home at Woodbluff.

The traditional Sabbath services will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will be led by Rabbi David Shepherd, an Orthodox Rabbi from Oak Park.

During the service, Miss Spitzer will read in Hebrew from the prophets, called the haftorah reading. The Torah, written by Moses, is the bible and it contains the five books of Moses. In the past, Jews were subjected to persecution and forbidden to read from the Torah. The haftorah section, comprising readings from the prophets, was added to the prayers at that time and is now added to the readings from the Torah. Traditionally, the week's current haftorah is read by boys at their Bar Mitzvah and by girls during their Bat Mitzvah.

Miss Spitzer, who enjoys horseback riding, gymnastics, and swimming, has been learning to read and speak Hebrew since she was four years old.



**Rachel Spitzer holds a torah scroll on the porch of the family's Woodbluff cottage, Szombathely. Several torahs were on the Island for Rosh Hashanah services in September. A torah scroll is a handwritten parchment document that contains the original Bible and the five books of Moses, which are written in the original Hebrew. They have been copied by scribes, one to another, for thousands of years. A reading from a scroll will take place during Miss Spitzer's Bat Mitzvah October 20. (Photograph by Dr. Robert Spitzer)**

She also will deliver, in English, a brief sermon about that section of the Torah.

The celebration marks her entry into adulthood, she said, which means she must follow all of God's commandments. She now will fast at required times, she explained, and the ceremony marks a passage for her to become more spiritually closer to God and more responsible for everything she does. "I'm very, very excited for it,"

she said of the ceremony. "The day is all about me and I'll be accepted as an adult."

The October 20 date was chosen for the ceremony, said Dr. Spitzer, based on his daughter's 12th Hebrew birthday, which falls on October 18. Jewish tradition calls for the celebration to be held on the first Sabbath day following the birthday.

"The Jewish calendar, which long predates the current Julian or Gregorian calendar by many hundreds of years," said Dr. Spitzer, "is a lunar calendar and was originally maintained by the temple priests in Jerusalem."

A light luncheon, referred to as a kiddush meal, will be served following the service, beginning with a blessing on the wine, which is called kiddush.

Nathan Marsack, who has worked as a chef at Woods restaurant for last three summers and whose family lives in Sunset Forest Manor, will be

preparing the fully kosher luncheon under the supervision of Rabbi Shepherd. It will include an assortment of bagels, a variety of cream cheese spreads, and the three traditional fish: Lox, whitefish, and herring.

"This is exciting," said Mr. Marsack, who also has Island

resident Alex Winkle helping him. "This has been an inspiration for me and a step forward in the culinary industry."

The doors to Community Hall on Market Street will be kept open during the ceremony and the Island community is invited to attend the celebration.

## EUPISD To Seek Millage Increase on Nov. 6 Ballot

By Karen Gould

Mackinac Island voters will participate in five elections over the next year, and a potential sixth election could be added to the schedule. This fall there will be a millage election to support special education in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, scheduled for November 6. In 2008, the presidential primary election is January 15, local city and school elections are May 6, the state and county primary election is August 5, and the presidential election is November 4.

To handle all of the required paperwork for the upcoming elections, Mackinac Island City Clerk Karen Lennard has designated a work area in her office.

"My election work is more serious than anything I do," said Mrs. Lennard. She carries absentee ballots in her backpack to accommodate residents who approach her on the street.

In the last election, Mackinac Island had 646 registered voters.

Of those, Mrs. Lennard estimates she will have 200 absentee ballots for the special education millage election in November and approximately 300 for next year's Presidential election. Absentee ballot requests drop during the summer season, she said, with many voters returning to the Island.

The special education millage is sponsored by the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District (ISD), which is seeking 0.75 mills in all E.U.P. school districts to raise \$1.4 million over three years. The proposal was defeated throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula last may, with Island voters rejecting it 133 to 104.

Under the ISD's distribution proposal, Island property owners would have contributed \$130,697 to the program but the Island school would have received only \$28,000 of that back.

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Mackinac Island City Clerk Karen Lennard gets organized with a work table set up in her office dedicated to election requirements over the next year.

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